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National Expert to Discuss Creating Positive Futures: Resilience Starts in Infancy

*Annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture co-sponsored by
Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT featuring:*

Arnold Sameroff, PhD

Professor Emeritus of Psychology
Research Professor Emeritus, Center for Human Growth and Development
University of Michigan

Susan Dickstein, PhD

Psychologist, Bradley Hospital
Associate Professor, Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Board President, Rhode Island Association for Infant Mental Health

Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH

Director, Rhode Island Department of Health
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice, Brown University School of Public Health

Providence, RI (April 30, 2018): University of Michigan professor Arnold Sameroff will discuss "Creating Positive Futures: Resilience Starts in Infancy," as part of the annual *Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture on Child and Youth Behavior Development*. Following Dr. Sameroff's remarks, Susan Dickstein, Psychologist at Bradley Hospital and Associate Professor at Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director, Rhode Island Department of Health, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Alpert Medical School of Brown University, and Associate Professor of Health Services, Policy, and Practice, Brown University School of Public Health will provide reflections on how lessons learned from Dr. Sameroff's research can inform public policies to promote the healthy development of young children. The event will take place on **Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** at Brown University in Salomon 001, Providence, Rhode Island. All are welcome to attend.

Dr. Sameroff is a developmental psychologist and one of the founders of the field of developmental psychopathology. His research concerns the multiple factors that contribute to mental health and illness, with a particular emphasis on resilience in the face of adversity. His "transactional model" has become central to understanding the



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interplay of nature and nurture in explaining the development of positive and negative outcomes for children. His presentation will address clinical and policy opportunities to promote the mental health of children and youth.

“Improving the lives of children is a fundamental goal of human cultures, yet this hope often is not realized. Efforts to improve family life, neighborhoods, or schools can make positive change for low risk children, but for children with adversity in all these settings, there need to be multiple interventions in every social context to produce improvement,” said Dr. Sameroff. “At every age children with equal competence move on to very different futures because of different levels of adversity. Scientific knowledge can point the way to a better life, but political will is necessary to help children to get there.”

" 'It takes a village' to help raise youth resilient to the multiple demands of 21st century life...but what kind of village and what types of efforts and services are needed? Answering these questions has been at the heart of Dr. Sameroff's work over the past 40 years. Lessons learned and recommendations to make a positive impact on the lives of at-risk children and youth will be central to his presentation," said Professor Stephen Buka, ScD, Founding Chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Brown University School of Public Health.

“The topic of this year’s Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is very timely as Rhode Island focuses on strategies to promote healthy child development starting with infants and toddlers, and continuing throughout childhood,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director at Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “We know that Rhode Island’s future prosperity depends on the strongest possible start for young children as well as evidence based interventions when needed from birth through adolescence. Dr. Sameroff’s lecture on how to cultivate resilience in children, families and communities will inform a wide array of state and community leaders who can immediately apply his current research to policy and practice.”

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The annual Lipsitt-Duchin Lecture is co-sponsored by Brown University and Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

Through integrative scholarship and educational leadership, Brown University's community of students, faculty and staff seeks to aid in the creation of peaceful, just and prosperous societies, to decipher disease, and to improve population health for children and adults in Rhode Island and across the world.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children's policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

The Lewis P. and Edna Duchin Lipsitt Lectures in Child Behavior and Development were established by the Lipsitt family in 2000 to celebrate many years of association with Brown University and to preserve an interest in child psychology at the University. Dr. Lewis P. Lipsitt joined Brown in 1957 as an instructor of psychology after receiving his doctorate in child psychology at the University of Iowa. A pioneer in the study of sensory and learning processes,

Lipsitt established a laboratory at Women and Infants Hospital in 1958 to study infant behavior and development. He is the founding director of Brown's Child Study Center. Dr. Lipsitt received the 1990 Nicholas Hobbs Award for science in the service of children from the American Psychological Association and the 1994 American Association for the Advancement of Science's Lifetime Achievement Mentor Award for helping minorities and women in the pursuit of scientific careers. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and was a resident fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavior Sciences at Stanford in 1979-80.